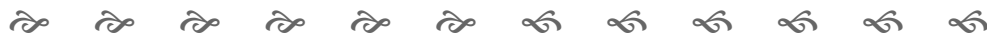


BYRON
MUSEUM OF HISTORY
AND LUCIUS READ HOUSE

❧ BYRON HISTORY EXPRESS ❧



Spring 2010 Newsletter



Byron Museum of History

PO Box 186

110 N Union Street

Byron, IL 61010

815.234.5031 phone

www.byronmuseum.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL

- 3 - Museum Closed for Easter
- 19 - Ogle County Historic Alliance Meeting at Ogle County Historical Society in Oregon
- 22 - Annual Volunteer Banquet at 6pm
- 27 - Monthly Board of Commissioners Meeting at 7pm
- 29 - Antique Appraisal at 6pm

MAY

- 12 - Program at 5:30 pm (Small Town Heritage: Life in Illinois Communities, 1870-1920)
- 15 - Cemetery Walk, 9:30am - 11:30am
- 25 - Monthly Board of Commissioners Meeting at 7pm

JUNE

- 19 - Ice Cream Social, 1-3pm
- 22 - Monthly Board of Commissioners Meeting at 7pm

JULY

- 9-11 - 23rd Annual ByronFest Quilt Show
- 22 - Monthly Board of Commissioners Meeting at 7pm

Please call our office or check our website for an up-to-date list of events.

THE BYRON MUSEUM OF HISTORY

Staff

Jessica McCanse, *Executive Director*
Carolyn Kauten, *Registrar*
Kira Halvey, *Education & Volunteer Coordinator*
Jim Brubaker, *Custodian*

Board of Commissioners

Randy Stukenberg, *President*
Angie Bauer, *Vice-President*
Ron Beem, *Secretary*
Kim Boyden, *Treasurer*
Harry Adams, *Commissioner*

Meetings are open to the public, and are held on the **4th Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM** in the Museum's conference room.

CURRENT HOURS

Tuesday - Friday, 10am - 5pm

Saturdays 10am - 2pm

We are happy to accommodate your group outside regular hours! We have ample meeting space available and gladly offer it for scout groups, clubs, and other organizations.

Please call us to schedule your group's free tour today.

Tours are **FREE** and are self-guided or a docent can be arranged.

Address changes, requests for additions to the mailing list, and other inquiries may be addressed to:

Byron Museum of History
PO Box 186
110 N. Union Street
Byron, IL 61010-0186
Phone: 815.234.5031
Email: info@byronmuseum.org

BYRON BUSINESS EXHIBIT OPENS



The Byron Museum is pleased to announce the unveiling of its new exhibit, *Byron: Open for Business 1835-1975* on March 10th. This new permanent exhibit focuses on local businesses through the years, starting with Byron's early beginnings up to 1975.

The histories of several businesses are featured including Gill's Hall, Dixson's Department Store, Byron Cheese Factory, and the once popular Clamming Industry along the Rock River.

Several of the objects on display include a sign from Piper's Hardware, a block of old Post Office boxes, a cabinet from the Barrick and Hunter store, and an old safe from the Byron Bank. Visitors are given the opportunity to test their local knowledge against our Byron Business Trivia and are encouraged to share their favorite business memories, past or present.

In conjunction with the exhibit's unveiling, the Byron Museum hosted the program, *A Visit with Mrs. Potts*. Mrs. Potts was performed in first person by Ellie Carlson, Curator of Costumes for the Winnetka Historical Society. The historic Mrs. Potts invented the cold-handled sad iron. Mrs. Potts stopped by the Byron Museum to promote her invention and discuss the technology behind her product, and what it meant for a woman to hold a US Patent and manage her own affairs. The audience was delighted with Mrs. Carlson's portrayal of Mrs. Potts and her knowledge of the era.



Visitors listen to Mrs. Potts talking about her invention of the cold-handled sad iron

2ND ANNUAL VOLUNTEER POT LUCK

The Museum held its 2nd Annual Volunteer Potluck on January 12th in appreciation of all our volunteers' hard work throughout the year. The Museum supplied cold sandwiches and refreshments, while volunteers brought a side dish or dessert to pass. A special thanks to all those who participated in making this event a success!





ANNUAL VOLUNTEER BANQUET

April 22nd at 6pm

The Museum will host its annual Board of Commissioners and Volunteer Appreciation Banquet on Thursday, April 22nd at 6pm. Volunteers will be treated to a lovely catered meal as well as appreciation gifts in thanks for all of their efforts over the past year. The Volunteer of the Year award will also be presented.

ANTIQUÉ APPRAISAL

April 29th 6-8pm

Byron's own version of the Antiques Road Show!

Appraisals will be conducted in a theater setting by Mr. Swan Hachmeister of Hack's Auction & Realty, Inc. Limit two antiques per person; \$5 per item. Reservations are required. Please call 815.234.5031 no later than Tuesday, April 27th to reserve your space.

SMALL-TOWN HERITAGE:

LIFE IN ILLINOIS COMMUNITIES, 1870-1920

May 12th at 5:30pm

The Museum will host the FREE program *Small-Town Heritage: Life in Illinois Communities, 1870-1920* on Wednesday, May 12th at 5:30pm. The program will be presented by John Hallwas, a retired professor from Western Illinois University. Mr. Hallwas will give a fascinating look at the Illinois small town from the post-Civil War Periods through WW I. He will discuss townscapes, transportation, business activities, and social life during this period when small Illinois towns were thriving economic centers, as well as deeply meaningful places for local residents.

PROGRAMS & EVENTS

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

June 19th 1-3pm

The Museum will host a FREE ice cream social Saturday, June 19th featuring build-your-own sundaes and old fashion children's games. The social will run from 1-3pm in the Museum's front yard and sidewalks. Bring the entire family out for fun and games!



23RD ANNUAL BYRONFEST QUILT SHOW

July 9th-11th

This popular and FREE event is held during ByronFest, and last year's visitors were treated to a viewing of 60 quilts and textiles! The quilts cover a range of styles and time periods, some dating back to the 1850s. In addition to traditional quilts, our show includes wearable art, wall hangings, and other quilted textiles. The Quilt Show opens for viewers on Friday, July 9th and closes on Sunday, July 11th.

The entry date for our Quilt Show is Wednesday, July 7th from 2-7pm, so please don't pass up this opportunity to show off your beautiful work!

This show is judged by a regional quilt expert, and cash prizes are awarded to the 1st place winner in each category. Categories include Quilts, Wall Hangings, 1st Quilt/Wall Hanging, Youth, and Quilted Clothing/Wearable Art. Entry in the show is \$5 per item, or free for Just for Show (entries not judged).

For more information about our Quilt Show, please call 815.234.5031 or visit www.byronmuseum.org

WELCOME HOLMSTROM & KENNEDY

The Museum is pleased to announce that Holmstrom & Kennedy, P.C. has opened a new branch in Byron, IL in the front office of the Byron Museum complex.



Kristine Pihl Youman

Attorneys Kristine Pihl Youman and Amanda Adams are the primary attorneys working at the Byron office. Kristine is a graduate of Stillman Valley High School. She, her husband and children live on her family's centennial farm located between Stillman Valley and Davis Junction. Kristine graduated magna cum laude from the University of Illinois College of Law, has a Masters in Business Administration from the University of Illinois, and has been recognized by her peers as an Illinois Leading Lawyer. Amanda is a graduate of Byron High School and her family resides in the Byron area. Amanda received her undergraduate degree summa cum laude from Loyola University Chicago where she also received her law degree. Both Kristine and Amanda practice in the areas of corporate and business law, real estate, and estate planning and administration.



Amanda J. Adams

For nearly a century, Holmstrom & Kennedy has provided a full range of legal services throughout Northern Illinois. The firm's practice areas include: corporate and business law; real estate; health care; employment and labor law; intellectual property, technology and privacy law; bankruptcy and creditors' rights; civil litigation; alternative dispute resolution; and trusts and estates. With strong connections to Ogle County and a commitment to providing quality and efficient legal service to its clients, Holmstrom & Kennedy is looking forward to serving Byron and the surrounding area.

Please visit Holmstrom & Kennedy's Byron office during their office hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m. Additional hours are available by appointment listed above, or contact Holmstrom & Kennedy at 815-234-7077, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m. for a consultation or to set up an appointment with Kristine or Amanda.

FROM OUR PHOTO ARCHIVES...



The Bittner Bakery Girls infielders (above) are standing in front of a fence near where the old middle school is currently. From left to right: Sally Garner Johnson, Pici Fasnella, Barbara Spencer Leary, Gloria Hendee Knorr, Wilma or Wanda Dillow, and Mary Welsh Parks



WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

Volunteers are critical to the ongoing success of the Byron Museum. Whatever your talents or interests we invite you to participate in your local history through volunteering. The Museum is also a great option for high school students in need of community service hours. Examples of volunteer opportunities are listed below:

- **Office:** Greet visitors at the reception desk, monitor gift shop, and assist with mailings
- **Collections:** Cataloged new donations, research objects, and scan photos & documents
- **Exhibits:** Assist with planning, researching, and installing new exhibits
- **Education:** Help develop new programs and assist with school and scout tours
- **Special Events:** Help out during exhibit openings, Quilt Show, & Festival of Trees
- **Carpentry and landscaping**
- **Oral Histories:** Conduct and transcribe interviews

Our volunteers are treated to an annual dinner every spring, and several other group activities throughout the year.



*Sandra Brubaker, pictured at center, was awarded the Volunteer of the Year Award in 2009.
Also pictured: Carolin Kauten, Jessica McCanse, Jim Brubaker, and Kira Halvey.*

COLLECTION NEWS

We are pleased to announce that David and Nancy Hamer have recently donated their extensive collection of Byron and Byron area items. Many years in the making, it is without a doubt, one of the largest in the area. The collection is an assortment of eclectic objects, from a piece of the Tanner home, to local political flyers, to advertisements from local stores. To the right is an advertising mirror from the George Noyes Store for Men and Boys from the Hamer Collection.



SUMMER INTERNSHIPS

The Museum is seeking college or high school interns for the summer of 2010. Interns will assist museum staff and volunteers with daily museum activities and ongoing projects in one or more of the following areas: Collections, Exhibit Design, Education, and Special Events. Academic credit is available. For more information, please call 815.234.5031 or email kira@byronmuseum.org

ANNOUNCING MILITARY EXHIBIT



The Museum's next project will be a new, permanent exhibit honoring this area's veterans from the Black Hawk War up to present day. We are actively seeking stories, memories, photographs, newspaper clippings, or military objects to aid in this exhibit. The exhibit is slated to open late summer 2010. The Museum can duplicate photographs or documents if you would like to keep the originals, and we will also consider loans in place of donations. Please contact the Museum at 815.234.5031 with any questions, or if you are interested in getting involved!

**Byron Museum of History
PO Box 186
Byron, IL 61010**